

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants submit a Replacement Sheet No. 1 containing Figures 1 and 2 and reflecting corrections made to Figure 1.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application.

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed December 12, 2007. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 are rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 18 and 19 have been amended. Claims 21-30 are new. No new matter has been added.

Priority

The Examiner noted that a certified copy of the priority application has not been filed. Applicants submit a certified copy of the priority application herewith.

Drawings

The Examiner stated that Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. Applicant has submitted a replacement sheet showing corrections to Figure 1.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission

amounting to a gap between the steps. Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify where the data comes from and its connection to providing access. Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 includes storing data in a particular electronic data storage module within a data system. Claims 1-20 claim a useful and tangible result in the data system including data, in particular, electronic storage, depending on the classification of the data. Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirsch, et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No.: 2002/0052235, hereinafter “Hirsch”) and claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by LeMay, et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No.: 2003/0078103, hereinafter “LeMay”).

In paragraph [0072] LeMay discloses using temporary space in the NV-RAM for processing of “important commands regarding the ‘state’ of the gaming machine” and to using permanent space “to store important data on the gaming machine including accounting information and a game history...”

In paragraphs [0075] to [0078] LeMay discloses the use of a state-based transaction system by which states (critical data) are maintained. LeMay then discloses a ‘critical data transaction’ as one or more definitions of how to modify critical data, giving for example printing an award ticket. In paragraph [0076] LeMay says that the ‘critical data transactions’ are themselves stored as critical data.

In paragraph [0121], LeMay discloses that an ‘event manager’ evaluates game events to determine whether: “the event contains critical data or modifications of critical data that are protected from power hits on the gaming machine i.e., the game event is a ‘critical game event’.”

In paragraph [0234] LeMay discloses an embodiment in which the processors used to generate a game of chance are distributed, giving as a particular example the execution of game flow logic on a game server and the execution of game presentation logic on gaming machines. In this embodiment gaming events are communicated between different gaming software modules

executing on different gaming machines via defined application programming interfaces.

LeMay et al does not, however, disclose the adjustment of the classification of data in accordance with a change in a current environment of a data storage module or a move of the data from a data storage module to another environment, as required by claim 1.

In paragraph [0234] Lemay does disclose the communication of data between different environments in a gaming system, but does not disclose varying the classification of that data dependent on that communication. LeMay contains no disclosure of anything to suggest that the classification of data may change depending on the location of the data in the gaming system. Instead, as apparent from paragraphs [0009], [0072], [0075]-[0078] and [0121], data is classified as one of critical game information, important commands regarding the 'state' of the gaming machine, which includes critical data transactions, and non-critical data. These classifications are disclosed as fixed regardless of changes in the environment or movement of the data within the gaming system.

Claim 5, as amended, requires that the classification of data be adjusted in accordance with at least one of a change in a current environment of the data storage module and a move of the data from the data storage module to another

environment, being in this case another data storage module within an N-tier architecture. Claim 5 is patentable at least for the same reasons as claim 1.

Thus, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 5. Claims 2-3, 6-8 and 18-19 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the foregoing independent claims. Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

New Claims

As noted above, Applicants have added new claims 21-30. Applicants submit new claims 21-30 are also patentable over the cited art.

New claim 21 is directed towards a method of writing data to a data storage module in an N-tier architecture. The method includes the process of classifying critical data as authoritative data dependent on the location where the data is to be stored. This is in contrast to the classification in the references cited, which is dependent wholly on the type of data, for example, whether it relates to the state of a gaming machine or to data describing a sprite to be displayed on a display, and that storage in a particular location may be dependent on the data classification. Claim 21 defines a process whereby the classification of the data is dependent on where the data is to be stored, which is effectively the reverse of

the teaching in the references cited. It is submitted therefore that claim 21 is patentable for at least this reason.

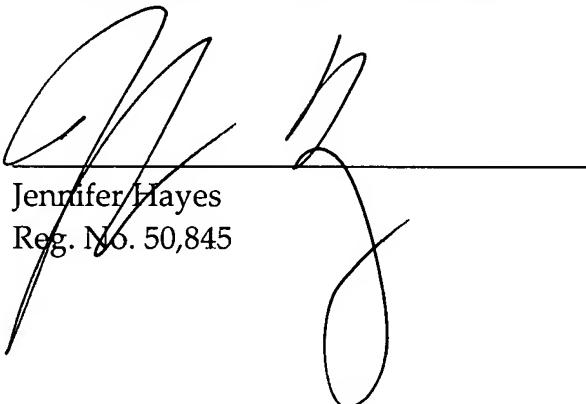
New claim 23 defines a method of managing data storage within a data system having an N-tier architecture, the method including the process of storing data in different tiers within a data system dependent on the classification of data. Claim 23 is a method of managing data storage within a data system having an N-tier architecture, the method including the process of comparing data in the data system with definitions of classifications of data and storing the data in different tiers within the data system dependent on the determined classification. Similarly, claim 28 relates to a classification process involving storing information relating to types of data and classifying the data dependent on the stored information and then storing the data in a particular module dependent on the classification. This is in contrast to the references cited, where the classifications of data are determined in advance and stored in specific locations depending on the classification. Therefore, in the references cited there is no step of comparing the data in the data system to a definition of classifications in order to classify the data.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Jennifer Hayes at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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